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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/288,856	04/09/1999	TETSURO NAGATSUKA	0557-4645-2	7945

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER
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RIMELL, SAMUEL G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2164

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/288,856

Applicant(s)

NAGATSUKA ET AL.

Examiner

Sam Rimell

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-25 and 42-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-25, 42-49 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-9 and 50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

  
**SAM RIMELL**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

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Preliminary Note: This office action includes new grounds of rejection and is accordingly made non-final.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 50 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 50: The phrase "contents contains a plurality of items irrespective of chapters, clauses, sentences and paragraphs of the document". This phrase is not recited or suggested in the original specification and is new matter.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Numata (U.S. Patent 5,943,669).

Claim 1: Reference is made to FIG. 1, and its associated discussion at col. 5, line 42 through col. 6, line 28. Numata discloses inputting means (document storage section 1); designating means (classification unit designation section 2) which designate specific sections of

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a document; converting means (fundamental vector generation section 4) which parses the document into the discrete sections designated by the designating means (2) and generates fundamental vectors, which are the converted data; and classifying means (classification section 8) which classifies the document using the converted data. A display means is provided by the display section (10) and its supporting programming (blocks 12a, 12b, 12c).

Claim 2: Numata discloses a document vector producing means (vector synthesis section 6 and composite vector maintenance section 7) which produces, combines and stores synthesized feature vectors that are used by the classification section in classifying the document.

Claim 3: Col. 5, line 54 states that the converting means (4) partitions the documents by means of the classification units. FIG. 12 illustrates the inclusion of symbols, such as “title”, “head” and “body” which illustrate the partitioned sections.

Claim 7: See remarks for claim 1.

Claim 8: See remarks for claim 2.

Claim 9: See remarks for claim 3.

Claim 50: See remarks for claim 1. Claim 50 only differs from claim 1 in its recitation of “items which are irrespective of chapters, clauses, sentences and paragraphs of the document..” This recitation has been indicated as being new matter, and has not been considered.

Claims 10-25 and 42-49 are allowed.

#### Remarks

Applicant's arguments and amendments have been considered.

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This office action is made non-final due to the inclusion of a new grounds of rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The rejection raised in claim 50 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph was mentioned in the previous office action at the discussion of claim 50, but not formally raised as a grounds of rejection. Accordingly, by formally raising it as a grounds of rejection in the present action, the examiner would not be able to fairly hold this action as a final action. Accordingly, this action is non-final.

Applicant's amendments have overcome the previous grounds of rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Currently, only claims 1-3, 7-9 and 50 are rejected in view of prior art. Each of these claims have been amended to define a designating means which designates a plurality of items, and a converting means which converts the designated items, with the additional caveat that the designated items are a portion less than all the items of the document data.

Examiner finds that both of these features of taught by Numata. In the Numata reference, the designating means is the classification unit designation section, which designates specific sections of a document. This would be a designation of a plurality of items.

The items which are designated are individual sections of text, such as chapters, section or paragraphs. Since the preamble of the claims, includes the word "comprising", the phrase "less than all the items" has two possible meanings:

- (1) It could mean that several but not all items are designated.
- (2) It could mean that at least one item is designated, since one item is less than all items.

In Numata, at least one item is designated, and since one item is less than all the items, it meets the claims according to the interpretation (2) recited above.

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This office action is made non-final.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at  
telephone number (571) 272-4084.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rimell', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sam Rimell  
Primary Examiner  
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